



Boston Public Library

black is...

**Books about the African American Experience
Booklist for Adults • 2015**

NONFICTION

Biography

Brothas Be, Yo Like George, Ain't That Funkin' Kinda Hard on You?

By George Clinton with Ben Greenman
George Clinton, the Father of Funk, recalls the birth of the Parliament Funkadelic's unique sound.
BIOG ML420 .C575 A3 2014

Cold Sweat:

My Father James Brown and Me

By Yamma Brown with Robin Gaby Fisher
Yamma Brown recalls the sweet and painful memories of her life with her father.
BIOG ML420 .B818 B76 2014

Cosby: His Life and Times

By Mark Whitaker
Published on the 30th anniversary of *The Cosby Show*, this book is the first major biography of Bill Cosby.
BIOG PN2287 .C632 W55 2014

Death of a King: The Real Story of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Final Year

By Tavis Smiley
Journalist Tavis Smiley tells the dramatic story of the final year of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life.
BIOG E185.97 .K5 S56 2014

Fire Shut Up in My Bones: A Memoir

By Charles M. Blow
New York Times correspondent Charles Blow contemplates the most difficult period of his life and his progression out of it.
BIOG PN4874 .B575 A3 2014

Lifting My Voice: A Memoir

By Barbara Hendricks
Arkansas-born and Julliard-educated lyric soprano Barbara Hendricks tells her life story.
BIOG ML420 .H3728 A3 2014

Michael Jordan: The Life

By Roland Lazenby
In this comprehensive biography, the author interviews Jordan's family, friends, and teammates from his college days through his professional career.
BIOG GV884 .J67 L39 2014x

Not for Everyday Use: A Memoir

By Elizabeth Nunez
Novelist Elizabeth Nunez returns to her native Trinidad for one last visit with her dying mother, where she encounters painful memories from her childhood.
BIOG PS3564 .U48 Z47 2014x

Postcards from Cookie:

A Memoir of Motherhood, Miracles, and a Whole Lot of Mail

By Caroline V. Clarke
Journalist and editor Caroline Clarke discovers that her birth mother is the daughter of Nat King Cole.
BIOG HV874.82 .C52 A3 2014x

The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League

By Jeff Hobbs

Jeff Hobbs tries to sort out the complexities of the untimely death of his one-time roommate, Yale graduate and drug dealer Robert Peace.

BIOG E185.97 .P38 H63 2014

Stokely: A Life

By Peniel E. Joseph

Historian Peniel E. Joseph centers the life of Stokely Carmichael, now known as Kwame Ture, in the radical progression of the civil rights movement.

BIOG E185.97 .C27 J63 2014

Things I Should Have Told My Daughter

By Pearl Cleage

Playwright and author Pearl Cleage tells her life story as a wife, mother, newspaper columnist, Hollywood screenwriter, and a civil rights activist.

BIOG PS3553 .L389 Z46 2014

Unbreak My Heart: A Memoir

By Toni Braxton

Heart surgery and a diagnosis of lupus force the singer to let go of her past and take charge of her physical and mental health.

BIOG ML420 .B7717 A3 2014x

Expressions

Act Like a Success, Think Like a Success: Discovering Your Gift and the Way to Life's Riches

By Steve Harvey with Jeffrey Johnson

Comedian, talk show host, and bestselling author Steve Harvey offers advice for achieving success.

BF637 .S8 H337 2014x

Let's Go Crazy:

Prince and the Making of Purple Rain

By Alan Light

The making of the song, album, and film is highlighted for Prince fans.

ML420 .P974 L44 2014

Manhood: How to Be a Better Man — or Just Live with One

By Terry Crews

Former football player and current actor Terry Crews offers advice on how to be a responsible family man, keep your masculinity, and have a sense of humor.

HQ1090 .C74 2014x

Marcus Off Duty:

The Recipes I Cook at Home

By Marcus Samuelsson

with Roy Finamore

Marcus Samuelsson shares his favorite Ethiopian, Swedish, Caribbean, and southern soul food recipes for cooks.

TX714 .S257 2014

The Noble Hustle:

Poker, Beef Jerky, and Death

By Colson Whitehead

Novelist Colson Whitehead participates in the World Series of Poker with a \$10,000 stake.

GV1254 .W45 2014

Reading Revolution:

Shakespeare on Robben Island

By Ashwin Desai

Under repressive conditions, prisoners on apartheid South Africa's Robben Island find inspiration in the works of William Shakespeare.

PR3109 .S55 D47 2014x

The Rise: Creativity, the Gift of

Failure, and the Search for Mastery

By Sarah Lewis

Curator and cultural critic Sarah Lewis analyzes the role failure plays in the creative process.

BF408 .L625 2014

What I Know for Sure

By Oprah Winfrey

A revised and updated compilation of Oprah's monthly column in *O Magazine*, the essays are arranged by themes such as joy, resilience, connection, gratitude, awe, clarity, and power.

PN1992.4 .W56 A25 2014x

History and Contemporary Issues

Bad Feminist: Essays

By Roxane Gay

Novelist and essayist Roxane Gay shares her thoughts about contemporary popular culture and feminism.

HQ1236.5 .U6 G38 2014x

Between Slavery and Freedom:

Free People of Color in America from Settlement to the Civil War

By Julie Winch

University of Massachusetts Boston History Professor Julie Winch writes a comprehensive history of free people of color since the 1600s.

E185.18 .W57 2014

Black and White: The Way I See It

By Richard Williams with Bart Davis

The father of tennis champions Venus and Serena Williams reveals how he overcame obstacles to become a successful businessman and tennis coach.

GV994 .W485 A3 2014

Black Prophetic Fire

By Cornel West in dialogue with and edited by Christa Buschendorf
Cornel West examines the impact on their eras and throughout history of prominent African American leaders Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Martin Luther King, Jr., Ella Baker, Malcolm X, and Ida Wells-Barnett.

E185.96 .W47 2014

Finding Your Roots: The Official Companion to the PBS Series

By Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. traces the ancestry of prominent Americans using genealogy tools and DNA techniques.

CS16 .G365 2014

Impolite Conversations: On Race, Politics, Sex, Money, and Religion

By Cora Daniels and John L. Jackson, Jr.

Journalist Cora Daniels and cultural anthropologist John Jackson engage in no-holds-barred discussions of unapologetic hot-button topics.

E185.86 .D354 2014

One Nation: What We Can All Do to Save America's Future

By Ben Carson, MD, with Candy Carson

Retired neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson offers his thoughts about national debt, educational shortcomings, and other contemporary social issues.

E169.12 .C2943 2014x

FICTION

Back Channel

By Stephen L. Carter

In 1962, Margo Jensen, a 19-year-old African American Cornell University sophomore, becomes actively involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

CARTER S

A Christmas Prayer

By Kimberla Lawson Roby

Alexis Fletcher is hoping for a better Christmas with her new fiancé. Will outside forces ruin her happiness, or will fate intervene?

ROBY K

Debbie Doesn't Do It Anymore

By Walter Mosley

Adult film star Debbie Dare resolves to change careers after her husband is murdered. Later, she discovers his debts and encounters her estranged family.

MOSLEY W

Forty Acres: A Thriller

By Dwayne Alexander Smith

In this legal thriller set in a high society alternate reality, a young African American attorney is thrown into controversial issues of race and power.

SMITH D

Into the Go-Slow

By Bridgett M. Davis

A young woman travels to Nigeria in 1986 to retrace the steps of her late sister.

DAVIS B

Time of the Locust

By Morowa Yejidé

Using fantastic elements, Yejidé tells a realistic story of a gifted autistic boy, his incarcerated father, and his mother's hardships.

YEJIDE M

Historical Fiction

Angels Make Their Hope Here

By Breena Clarke

In 1849, escaped slave Dossie Bird finds a temporary home in multicultural Russell's Knob, New Jersey.

CLARKE B

Citizens Creek

By Lalita Tademy

Creek Indian slave Cow Tom buys his freedom after serving as a translator.

TADEMY L

Land of Love and Drowning

By Tiphonie Yanique

The saga of the Bradshaw family takes them from their dangerous arrival at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, via shipwreck in 1916 through to the 1970s.

YANIQUE T

Natchez Burning

By Greg Iles

Attorney and novelist Penn Cage investigates the murder of Violet Davis, the sister of a local civil rights leader in early 1960s Mississippi.

ILES G

Song of the Shank

By Jeffery Renard Allen

In 1866, blind jazz musician Tom and his guardian Eliza live in a city apartment in the Northeast. A mysterious stranger from the island of Edgemere appears to reunite Tom with his missing mother.

ALLEN J

International

All Our Names

By Dinaw Mengestu

During the 1970s, a refugee from a war-torn African country comes to a small midwestern university town and falls in love with an American social worker.

MENGESTU D

Boy, Snow, Bird

By Helen Oyeyemi

This book is a retelling of the Snow White story set in 1950s Massachusetts.

OYEYEMI H

A Brief History of Seven Killings

By Marlon James

A fictionalized account of a Jamaican drug gang looks closely at an unstable time in Jamaica's history.

JAMES M

Every Day Is for the Thief

By Teju Cole

The author returns to his hometown of Lagos, Nigeria, after many years away and experiences it as a foreigner and a local.

COLE T

Radiance of Tomorrow

By Ishmael Beah

Friends Benjamin and Bockarie return to Imperi, their native village in Sierra Leone, after the civil war to find it in ruins. They and the villagers try to restore the village to what it used to be.

BEAH I

'Til the Well Runs Dry

By Lauren Francis-Sharma

Marcia leaves her native Trinidad to protect her lover and finds herself alone in a strange country.

FRANCISS L

An Untamed State

By Roxane Gay

Mireille Duval Jameson is a young, wealthy Haitian woman who is kidnapped by a gang of armed men. She is held captive by their commander while she waits for her father to pay ransom.

GAY R

Urban

Bedrock Faith

By Eric Charles May

Gerald "Stew Pot" Reeves returns home to Chicago after serving time in prison. Stew Pot, his dog John the Baptist, and his mentor Brother Crown try to change the neighborhood for the better.

MAY E

Black Lotus

By K'wan

Police Detective Wolf hunts down the "Black Lotus Killer."

KWAN

Blood, Sweat & Payback

By Wahida Clark

Someone wants every member of the cartel dead.

CLARK W

The Choir Director 2: Runaway Bride

By Carl Weber

Currently, choir director Aaron Mackie is a huge professional success. Will he marry the woman he loves?

WEBER C

Hold Me in Contempt

By Wendy Williams

Kimberly Kind is a woman from the streets who becomes a successful attorney. She is concealing a secret which may be revealed when she meets a handsome man named King.

WILLIAMS W

The Prodigal Son

By Kimberla Lawson Roby

Reverend Curtis Black is estranged from his two sons.

ROBY K

A Wanted Woman

By Eric Jerome Dickey

The Reaper, an assassin, botches a hit and gets stuck in paradise.

DICKEY E

The Other Side of the Pillow

By Zane

Jemistry Daniels swears off love until she meets Dr. Tevin Harris at a poetry slam.

ZANE

The Black is Booklist is a list of recent books concerning the African American experience. It is published as part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Black History Month each year.

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